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sembled his war council for one final gathering. Powell said, "By tonight, there really won't be an enemy there. If you go another day, you're basically just fighting stragglers." One of the advisers suggested that Bush announce a cease-fire on Thursday. The president said, "I'd like to do it tonight. Check it with Norm." Powell picked up the White House direct line that connected the commander in chief to the commander in the gulf (one of the few times the line was ever used). Schwarzkopf quickly agreed. One of the president's men noticed that a cease-fire set for midnight would mark exactly 100 hours of ground fighting. Bush liked the symmetry of it. And at midnight the guns fell silent.

*The Secret History of the War was written by Tom Mathews with principal reporting by Douglas Waller. Additional reports came from Ann McDaniel, Thomas M. DeFrank and Margaret Garrard Warner in Washington, and from C. S. Manegold and Tony Clifton in the gulf.*

## Intelligence Goofs

**T**he White House is seriously concerned about three major intelligence failures during the gulf war:

- U.S. planners were told the Iraqis had moved 540,000 troops into the Kuwait theater, with more than half in Kuwait itself. The actual total was nearer 250,000, of whom about 150,000 were in Kuwait.
- Iraq was thought to have about 35 mobile Scud missile launchers. In fact, they had as many as 200.

■ Intelligence reported Iraq had moved large numbers of chemical weapons into the Kuwait theater, and major efforts were made to destroy them. Not a single chemical weapon has been found.

What concerns policymakers is that these failures come on the heels of errors in East Europe. U.S. intelligence never picked up the Soviet Union's huge redeployment of weapons east of the Urals, so that they wouldn't count under arms treaties. And in East Germany, major Soviet installations, including a marshaling yard buried beneath a hill, went undetected.